The Marvel Family

10¢

NO. 20

STARRING
CAPTAIN MARVEL
CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.
MARY MARVEL
IN
"THE MARVEL FAMILY FEUD"

CARD TRICKS by HOWARD THURSTON
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LAZY LEE
"TALKS TOO MUCH"

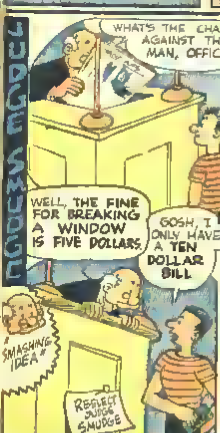
WHAT! YOU STILL SITTING THERE! THAT'S THE WAY I LIFT YOU TEN HOURS AGO!

I BET YOU HAVEN'T MOVED ONCE
YES I DID—I CROSSED MY LEGS ONCE

BOY YOU CERTAINLY ARE LAZY TELL ME DID YOU EVER HOLD A JOB?
YES I ONCE WAS A NIGHT WATCHMAN BUT I GOT FIRED FOR TALKING

WHY? CAN'T A NIGHT WATCHMAN TALK IF HE WANTS TO?
SURE—

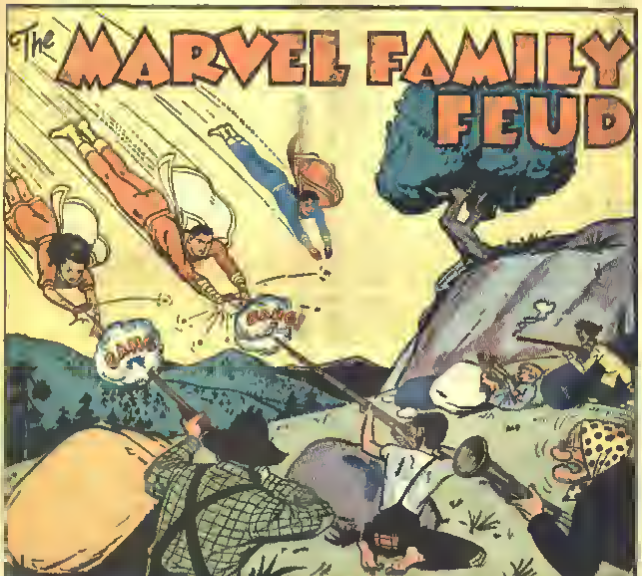
—BUT NOT IN HIS SLEEP!


JUDGE SMUDGE
WHAT'S THE CHARGE AGAINST THIS MAN, OFFICER?
HE BROKE A STORE WINDOW
WELL, THE FINE FOR BREAKING A WINDOW IS FIVE DOLLARS
GOSH, I ONLY HAVE A TEN DOLLAR BILL
"SMASHING IDEA"
REFLECT JUDGE SMUDGE

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

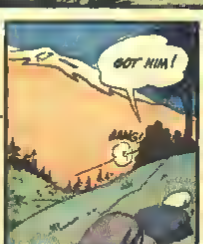
IS THAT TRUE?
YES YOUR HONOR.
PLOP!
OUT TO BREAK ANOTHER WINDOW!

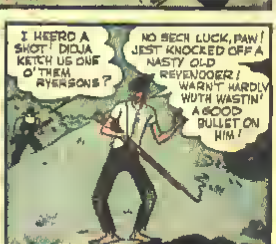
The MARVEL FAMILY FEUD



THIS STORY BEGINS IN A CERTAIN RARELY VISITED HILL COUNTRY SOMEWHERE IN THE CENTRAL UNITED STATES

IT IS A SECTION VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN TO ANYONE EXCEPT ITS INHABITANTS, AND A FEW UNFORTUNATE REVENUE AGENTS, WHO ARE BURIED NEAR THE SCENE OF THEIR INVESTIGATIONS!





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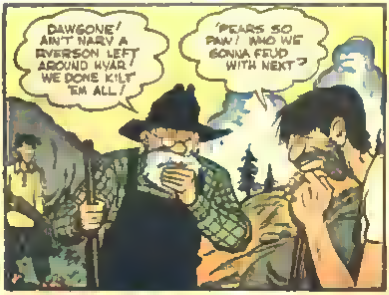
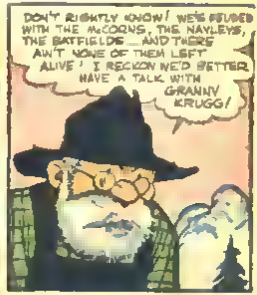

DAWGONE! AIN'T NARY A RIVERSON LEFT AROUND HYAR! WE DONE KILT 'EM ALL!
'PEARS SO PAW! WHO WE GONNA FEUD WITH NEXT?

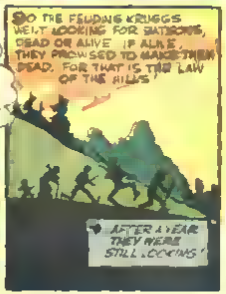

DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW! WE'S FEUDED WITH THE McCOONS, THE NAYLEYS, THE BATFIELDS ... AND THERE AIN'T NONE OF THEM LEFT ALIVE! I RECKON WE'D BETTER HAVE A TALK WITH GRANNY KRUGG!

GRANNY IS THE MATRIARCH OF THE FE...ING KRUGG "AMILY!
AIN'T NOBODY WUTH FEUDIN' WITH LEFT IN THESE HILLS! BUT US KRUGGS AIN'T GONNA BE UNEMPLOYED - NOT WHILE OLD GRANNY IS ALIVE!
RECKON YUH KIN FIND SOMEBUDDY PER US TA FEUD WITH, GRANNY?

WA-A-A-LL, LEMME SEE! WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GAL, MY GRAN'-PAPPY TOLD ME HE MET A FELLER NAMED WILLIAM BATSON IN THE VILLAGE ONE DAY! THIS BATSON FELLER GRINED IT WAS AGONNA BE GOOD WEATHER...

...GRAN'PAPPY SAID IT WAS AGONNA RAIN! SO NACHERLY HE SHOT DOWN THE BATSON FELLER LIKE A RHINO FOR ARGUYING WITH HIM!
NACHERLY!

MEBBE SOME O' THEM BATSONS IS STILL ALIVE! THEY WAS INSULTED OUR FAMILY! I DEMANDS REVENGE!
WE KNOWED WE COULD DEPEND ON YOU, GRANNY! SOUNDS LIKE A RIGHT INTERESTIN' FEUD!


SO THE FEUDING KRUGGS WENT LOOKING FOR BATSONS, DEAD OR ALIVE (IF ALIVE, THEY PROCEED TO MAKE THEM DEAD. FOR THAT IS THE LAW OF THE HILLS!
...AFTER A YEAR THEY WERE STILL LOOKING!

FINALLY THEY REACHED A BIG CITY.
PAPER, MISTER ?
SHORE!

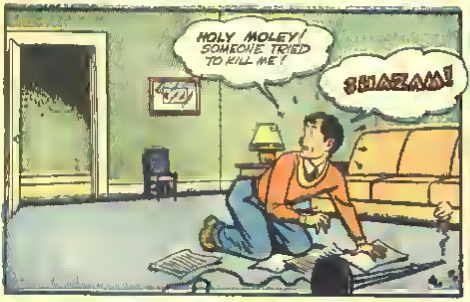
HEY! HOW ABOUT MY THREE CENTS ?
SO THAT'S YORE GAME ? A-HOLDIN' ME UP FER MONEY!

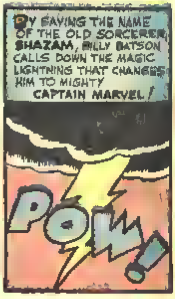
THAT'LL LARN YA US KRUGGS AIN'T NOBUDDY'S FOOLS!
BONK!
GLUHGGG!

WAL, LOOKY HERE! WE'S FOUND US ONE O'THEM BATSONS!
I GITS PUST SHOT AT IN I YOU PROMISED ME!

LATER, IN THE STUDIO WHERE BILLY BATSON IS BROADCASTING
AND THAT'S ALL THE NEWS UNTIL NEXT TIME FOLKS! SO LONG!

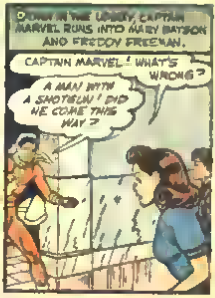
OOOPS! I DROPPED MY SCRIPT.
BLAAAM!


HOLY MOLEY! SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL ME!
SHAZAM!


BY SAYING THE NAME OF THE OLD SORCERER, SHAZAM, BILLY BATSON CALLS DOWN THE MAGIC LIGHTNING THAT CHANGES HIM TO MIGHTY CAPTAIN MARVEL!
POW!

LUCKY BILLY STOPPED OVER AT JUST THAT MOMENT!

THE ASSASSIN ISN'T OUT HERE! BUT I WON'T LET HIM GET OUT OF THE BUILDING!

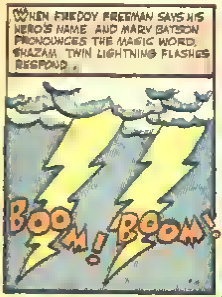

DOWN IN THE LOBBY, CAPTAIN MARVEL RUNS INTO MARY BATSON AND FREDDY FREEMAN.
CAPTAIN MARVEL! WHAT'S WRONG?
A MAN WITH A SHOTGUN! DID HE COME THIS WAY?

NO, WE DIDN'T SEE ANYONE! IS THERE ANY TROUBLE?
SOMEBODY JUST TRIED TO KILL YOUR BROTHER BILLY BATSON!

HER BROTHER! HUH? THEN SHE MUST BE A BATSON, TOO! AN' US KRUGGS HATES BATSONS! I'LL GIT 'ER!

BUT AT THE LAST INSTANT CAPTAIN MARVEL SEES THE LURKING KILLER
LOOK OUT, MARY!
?
BLAM!
SPLAT

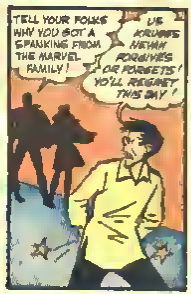
DAMSSONE! I'M'S GONNA BE AWFUL MAD WHEN HE HEARS I MISSED 'EM TWICE!
SHAZAM!
CAPTAIN MARVEL!

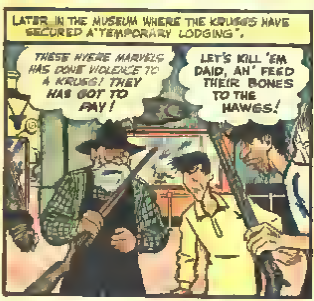

WHEN FREDDY FREEMAN SAYS HIS HERO'S NAME AND MARY BATSON PRONOUNCES THE MAGIC WORD, SHAZAM TWIN LIGHTNING FLASHES RESPOND.
BOOM! BOOM!

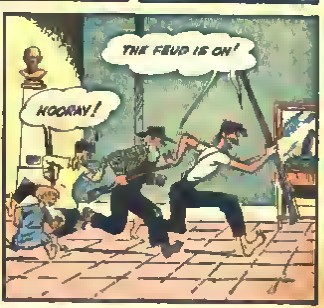
AND THEY BECOME CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. AND MARY MARVEL!
IT'S JUST A BOY!
LEMME BE

DON'T YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO PLAY WITH GUNS? YOUR PARENTS OUGHT TO TEACH YOU A LESSON
DON'T MESS INTO DIS YERE FEUD! IT'S BETWEEN US KRUGGS AN' THEM LOW-DOWN, ORNERY BATSONS!

FRESH, AREN'T YOU? WELL, THERE'S ONE WAY TO MAKE MY POINT CLEAR! GO AHEAD, MARY!
WAP!
EEEYOW!


TELL YOUR FOLKS WHY YOU GOT A SPANKING FROM THE MARVEL FAMILY!
US KRUGGS NEVAH FORGIVES OR FORGETS! YO'LL REGRET THIS DAY!


LATER IN THE MUSEUM WHERE THE KRUGGS HAVE SECURED A "TEMPORARY LODGING".
THESE HYERE MARVELS HAS DONE VIOLENCE TO A KRUGG! THEY HAS GOT TO PAY!
LET'S KILL 'EM DAID, AN' FEED THEIR BONES TO THE HAWGS!

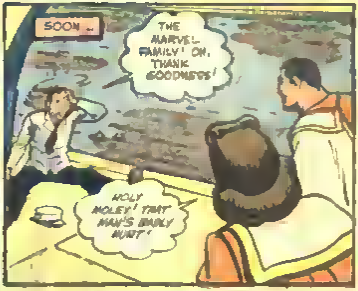

THE FEUD IS ON!
HOORAY!

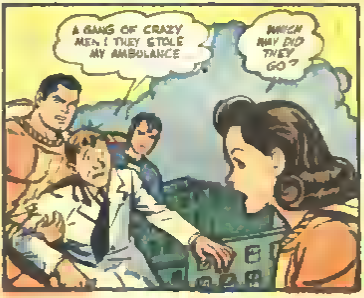
AIN'T WE LUCKY? JEST HAPPENS TO BE ONE O' THEM HEXPANSILED AUTYMOBILES GOIN' BY!

NICE QUIET SORT O' FELLER! HE DON'T OBJECT NONE TO OUR BORRYIN' HIS AUTYMOBILE!

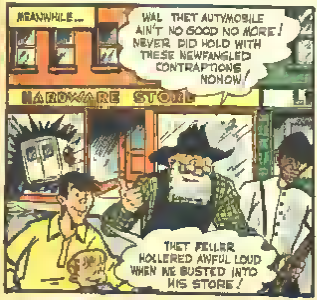
THIS YERE FELLER SHUSSLED HISSELF INTO TH' BACK SEAT! 'LL JEST CLEAR IN OUT TA MAKE ROOM!

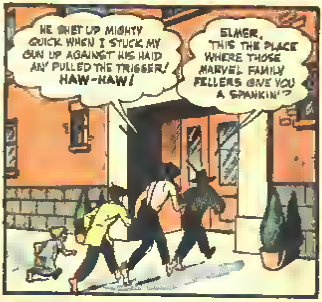
SHORE IS A MIGHTY BUMPY ROAD!
I HEERD SOMEBUDDY SCREAM! BUT IT DON'T MATTER NONE NOW! THEY'S GAND!

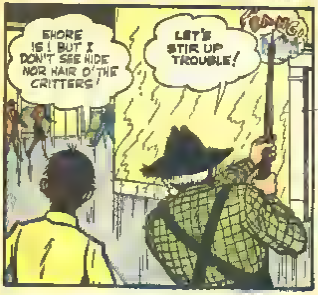

SOON ..
THE MARVEL FAMILY! OH, THANK GOODNESS!
HOLY MOLEY! THAT MAN'S BADLY HURT!

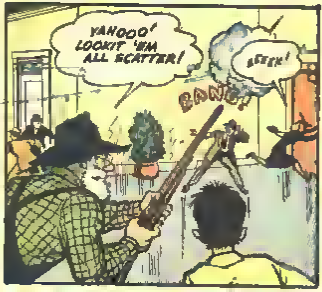

A GANG OF CRAZY MEN! THEY STOLE MY AMBULANCE
WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?

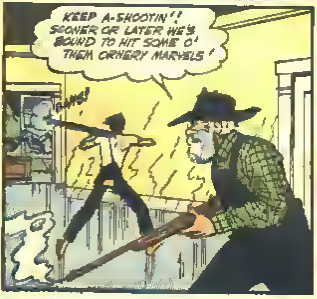
THAT WAY! CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
WE'LL DO OUR BEST!

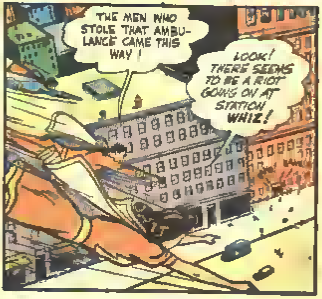

MEANWHILE...
WAL THET AUTYMOBILE AIN'T NO GOOD NO MORE! NEVER DID HOLD WITH THESE NEWFANGLED CONTRAPTIONS NOHOW!
HARDWARE STORE
THET FELLER HOLLERED AWFUL LOUD WHEN WE BUSTED INTO HIS STORE!


WE SHET UP MIGHTY QUICK WHEN I STUCK MY GUN UP AGAINST HIS HAID AN' PULLED THE TRIGGER! HAW-HAW!
SLIKER, THIS THE PLACE WHERE THOSE MARVEL FAMILY FELLERS GIVE YOU A SPANKIN'?

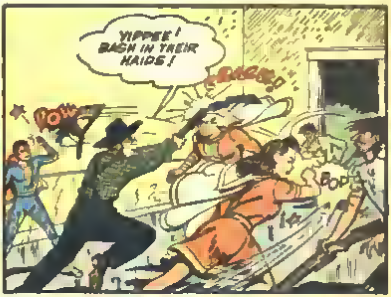

SHORE IS! BUT I DON'T SEE HIDE NOR HAIR O' THE CRITTERS!
LET'S STIR UP TROUBLE!
BANG!

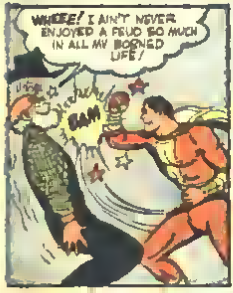

YAHOOO! LOOKIT 'EM ALL SCATTER!
EEEK!
BANG!


KEEP A-SHOOTIN'! SOONER OR LATER HE'S BOUND TO HIT SOME O' THEM ORNERY MARVELS!
BANG!


THE MEN WHO STOLE THAT AMBULANCE CAME THIS WAY!
LOOK! THERE SEEMS TO BE A RIOT GOING ON AT STATION WHIZ!

HEY, POP! IT'S THEM! THE MARVELS!

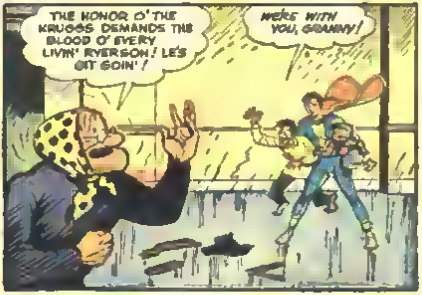

YIPPEE! BASH IN THEIR HAIDS!
POW
BAROOM
POP

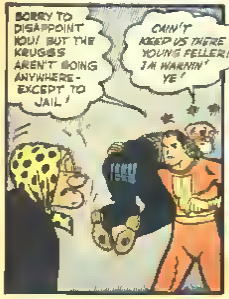

WHEEE! I AIN'T NEVER ENJOYED A FEUD SO MUCH IN ALL MY BORNED LIFE!
BAM

CHILDREN! SHAME ON YE!

WAL, I'LL BE TARRED AN FEATHERED IF IT AIN'T GRANNY COME IN AN' JINE THE FIGHTIN'!
THIS AIN'T NO TIME FER KRUGGS TO BE ENJOYIN' THERSELFS!

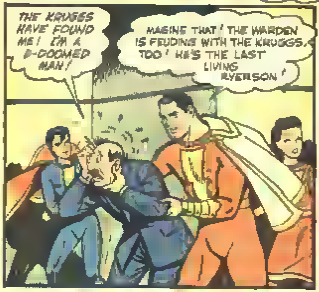
I JEST DISCOVERED THERE'S A LIVIN' RYERSON RIGHT YERE IN THIS CITY! THE LOW DOWN SKONK RAN AWAY FUM THE HILLS TO SAVE HIS MIZZUBLE CARCASS!

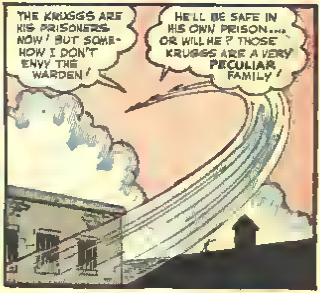

THE HONOR O' THE KRUGGS DEMANDS THE BLOOD O' EVERY LIVIN' RYERSON! LE'S GIT GOIN'!
WERE WITH YOU, GRANNY!

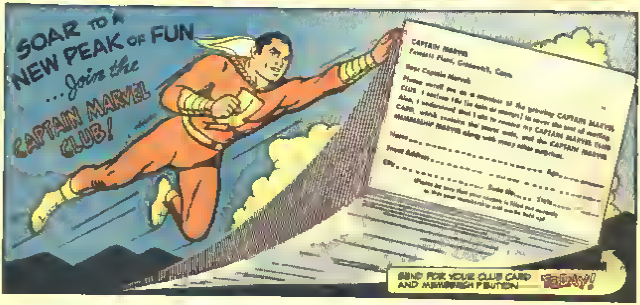

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU! BUT THE KRUGGS AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE - EXCEPT TO JAIL!
CAIN'T KEEP US THERE YOUNG FELLER! I'M WARNIN' YE!

LATER, AT THE STATE PRISON-
I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE THE LATEST BATCH OF PRISONERS! ASSAULT, BATTERY, GENERAL RIOT, WILFUL DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, MAN-SLAUGHTER... QUITE AN IMPOSING CRIME RECORD!
THEY'RE VERY UNUSUAL PRISONERS, WARDEN!

OHHH! N-N-NO!
WAL, BUS' MY BRITCHES - IF IT AIN'T OL' JESS RYERSON! WE'S GLAD TO SEE YOU! HAW HAW HAW!


THE KRUGGS HAVE FOUND ME! I'M A D-DOOMED MAN!
IMAGINE THAT! THE WARDEN IS FEUDING WITH THE KRUGGS, TOO! HE'S THE LAST LIVING RYERSON!


THE KRUGGS ARE HIS PRISONERS NOW! BUT SOME-HOW I DON'T ENVY THE WARDEN!
HE'LL BE SAFE IN HIS OWN PRISON... OR WILL HE? THOSE KRUGGS ARE A VERY PECULIAR FAMILY!

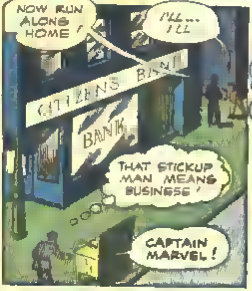

SOAR TO A NEW PEAK OF FUN
...Join the CAPTAIN MARVEL CLUB!
CAPTAIN MARVEL
Fawcett Plaza, Greenwich, Conn.
Dear Captain Marvel:
SEND FOR YOUR CLUB CARD AND MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

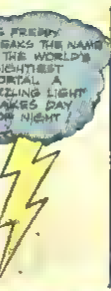
Capt. MARVEL Jr.

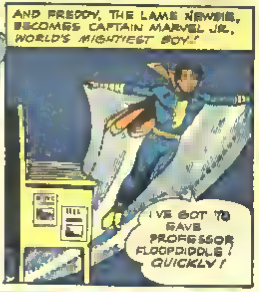
and the GIANT VITAMIN

STICK 'EM UP!
EH? OH, GOOD EVENING!

STICK 'EM UP OR I'LL SHOOT!
EH? YOU SHOULD BE HOME IN BED, SONNY!


NOW RUN ALONG HOME!
I'LL... I'LL...
CITIZENS BANK
BANK
THAT STICKUP MAN MEANS BUSINESS!
CAPTAIN MARVEL!


AS FREDDY SPEAKS THE NAME OF THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL A DAZZLING LIGHT MAKES DAY OR NIGHT!


AND FREDDY, THE LAME NEWSIE, BECOMES CAPTAIN MARVEL JR., WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY!
I'VE GOT TO SAVE PROFESSOR FLOOPIDDLE! QUICKLY!

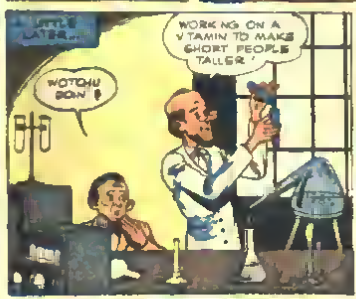
TUT! TUT!
BANG!
BANG!
PUT ME DOWN, YOU GIANT!
HMM! I GUESS THE PROFESSOR DOESN'T NEED HELP!

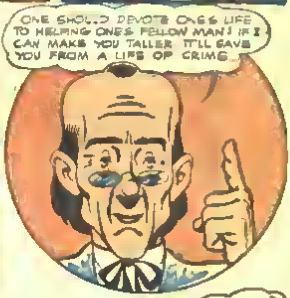
THE SHOTS BRING POLICE FROM NEARBY PRECINCT HEADQUARTERS!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
?
NOTHING! MY-AH-SON-WAS SHOOTING HIS CAP PISTOL!

I'M NOT NEEDED HERE, SO-- CAPTAIN MARVEL!
BACK TO WORK!

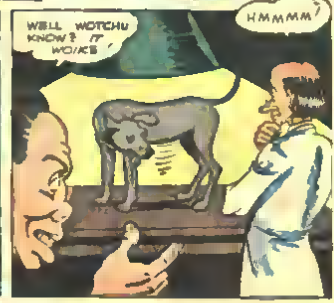
MEANWHILE, THE PROFESSOR TAKES THE HOLDUP MAN HOME WITH HIM
MY BOY WHY ARE YOU A CRIMINAL?
I'M MAD AT DE WORLD! EVERYBODY CALLS ME "SHORTY"!

A GUN'S DE ONLY TING DAT'LL BRING YOU TALL GINKS DOWN TO MY SIZE! OH HOW I HATES BEIN' A SHRIMP!
HMM!


LITTLE LATER...
WORKING ON A VITAMIN TO MAKE SHORT PEOPLE TALLER!
WOTCHU DOIN'?


ONE SHOULD DEVOTE ONE'S LIFE TO HELPING ONE'S FELLOW MAN! IF I CAN MAKE YOU TALLER IT'LL SAVE YOU FROM A LIFE OF CRIME.

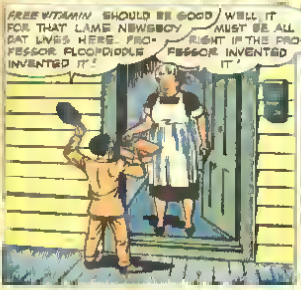
NOW TO TEST THE GROWTH VITAMIN!
CHEE!

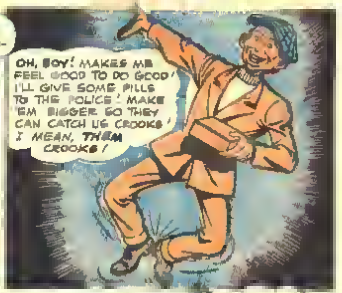

WELL WOTCHU KNOW? IT WOIKS!
HMMMM!

I'LL TAKE ONE AN BE TALL!
NO! NO! WE MUST TEST IT 1000 TIMES BEFORE TRYING IT ON HUMANS!

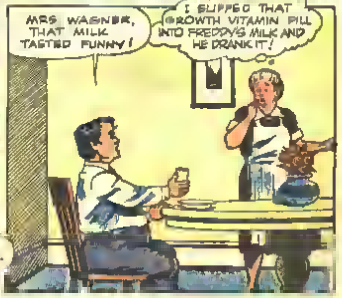
WE MUST TEST IT WITH RATS MICE AND GUINEA PIGS!
DE PROFESSOR'S TOO CAUTIOUS I'LL GO HELP MR FELLOW MAN.

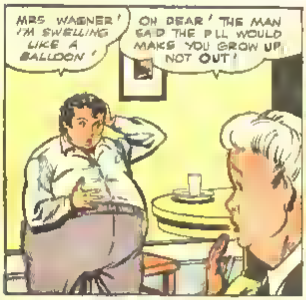
IN MRS WAGNER'S BOARDING HOUSE
BUT MRS WAGNER...
NOW, FREDDY YOU MUST HAVE ANOTHER GLASS OF WARM MILK 'SCUSE ME THE DOORBELL!
RRRING

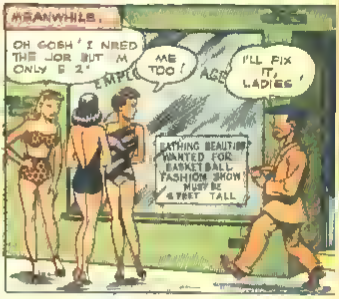

FREE VITAMIN SHOULD BE GOOD FOR THAT LAME NEWSBOY — DAT LYES HERE. PROFESSOR FLOOPDIDDLE INVENTED IT!
WELL IT MUST BE ALL RIGHT IF THE PROFESSOR INVENTED IT!


OH, BOY! MAKES ME FEEL GOOD TO DO GOOD! I'LL GIVE SOME PILLS TO THE POLICE! MAKE 'EM BIGGER SO THEY CAN CATCH US CROOKS! I MEAN, THEM CROOKS!

PROFESSOR FLOOPDIDDLE'S INVENTION EH?
MUST BE O.K.!
I'D LIKE TO BE TALLER!
NO, THANKS.


MRS WAGNER, THAT MILK TASTED FUNNY!
I SLIPPED THAT GROWTH VITAMIN PILL INTO FREDDY'S MILK AND HE DRANK IT!

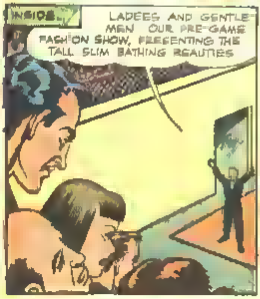

MRS WAGNER! I'M SWELLING LIKE A BALLOON!
OH DEAR! THE MAN SAID THE PILL WOULD MAKE YOU GROW UP, NOT OUT!

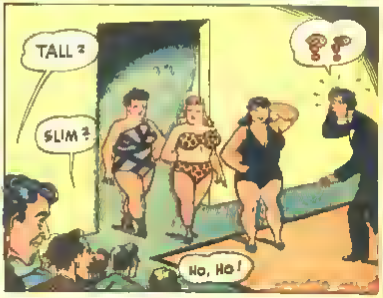

MEANWHILE...
OH GOSH! I NEED THE JOB BUT I'M ONLY 5'2"
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
ME TOO!
I'LL FIX IT, LADIES!
BATHING BEAUTIES WANTED FOR BASKET BALL FASHION SHOW MUST BE 6 FEET TALL

IN THE GYM...
THEY'LL BEAT US MEN! ALL THEIR PLAYERS ARE SO TALL!
I'LL FIX IT!
COACH!

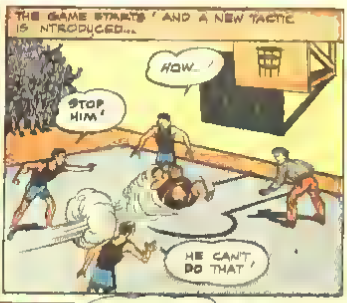
IT'S A GROWTH VITAMIN MAKES YOU TALL!
I'LL TRY IT
WHAT CAN WE LOSE?

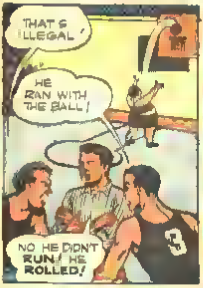
THAT EVENING...
BASKETBALL
TONI
DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ME, BUT I'VE STILL GOT TO SELL PAPERS!


INSIDE...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OUR PRE-GAME FASHION SHOW, PRESENTING THE TALL SLIM BATHING BEAUTIES


TALL?
SLIM?
??
HO, HO!

WHEN THE HOME TEAM COMES OUT
I'D BE TALLER IF I LAID DOWN
TALLER HE SEZ!


THE GAME STARTS! AND A NEW TACTIC IS INTRODUCED...
HOW...!
STOP HIM!
HE CAN'T DO THAT!


THAT'S ILLEGAL!
HE RAN WITH THE BALL!
NO, HE DIDN'T RUN! HE ROLLED!

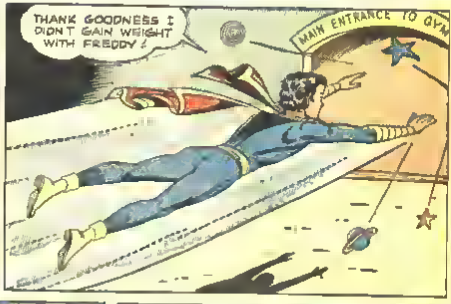
HE RAN!
SOCK!
HE DIDN'T!
HE ROLLED!
CHEAT!
ROBBER!
BANG!
IT'S ILLEGAL!

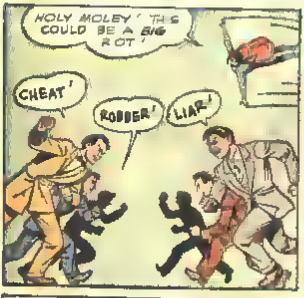
I'M GLAD WE GOT AN EASY ASSIGNMENT GUARDING THE BOX OFFICE!
HEY! RUN IN HERE! A RIOT
WHO CAN RUN?

HURRY!
HUFF! PUFF!
IT'S TIME FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL.
BUT SUPPOSE HE'S FAT, TOO?

GOT TO CHANGE IT. CAPTAIN MARVEL!

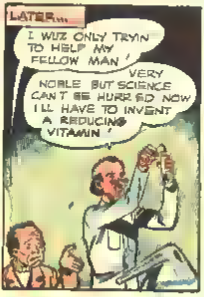
THE MAGIC WORDS
THE THUNDER
THE LIGHTNING !

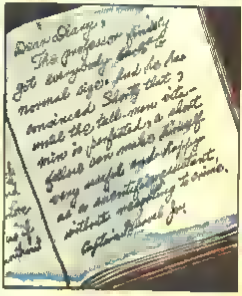

THANK GOODNESS ! DIDN'T GAIN WEIGHT WITH FREDDY !
MAIN ENTRANCE TO GYM

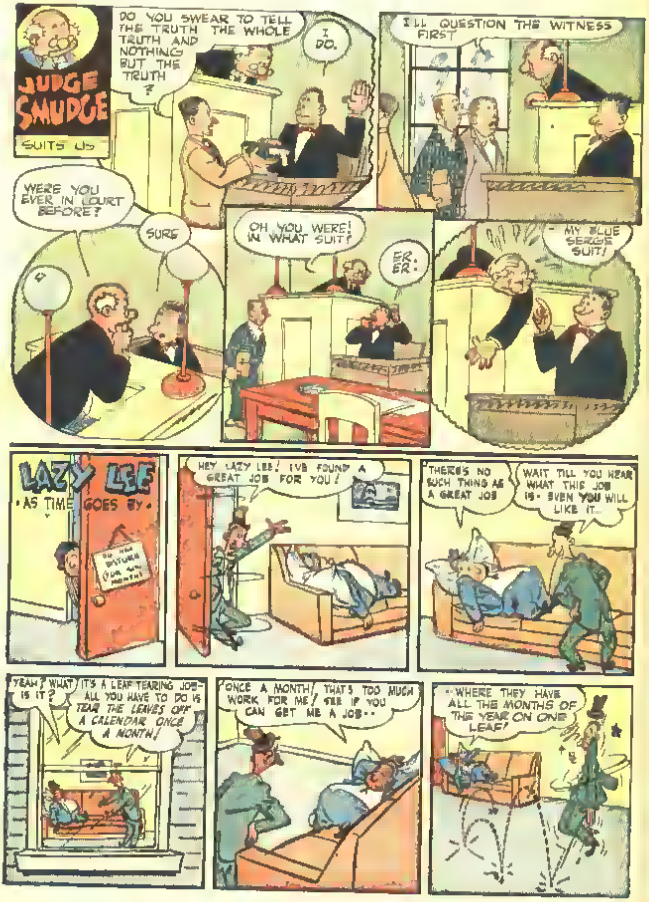

HOLY MOLEY ! THIS COULD BE A BIG ROT !
CHEAT !
ROBBER !
LIAR !

I'LL SOCK THEM GENTLY ! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT A PANIC !
CLUP
CLUP
CLUP

FRIENDS THIS IS A BASKETBALL GAME NOT A FREE-FOR-ALL I SUGGEST WE POSTPONE IT A WEEK TILL EVERYBODY COOLS OFF !
IT'S CAPTAIN MARVEL, JE !
HE'S RIGHT !
HOORAY FOR THE BLUE BOY !


LATER...
I WUZ ONLY TRYIN TO HELP MY FELLOW MAN !
VERY NOBLE BUT SCIENCE CAN'T BE HURRIED NOW I'LL HAVE TO INVENT A REDUCING VITAMIN !

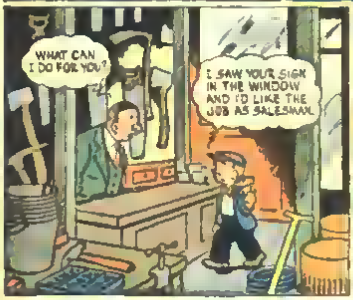

Dear Sharp,
The professor finally got everybody back to normal again, but he has invented Sharp that ? make the fat-man slim. This is perfectly a short time you can make strong fellow and very useful and helpful as a scientific assistant without weighing a crime.
Captain Marvel Jr.

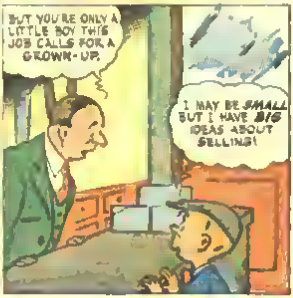

JUDGE SMUDGE
SUITS US
DO YOU SWEAR TO TELL THE TRUTH THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH ?
I DO.
I'LL QUESTION THE WITNESS FIRST
WERE YOU EVER IN COURT BEFORE?
SURE
OH YOU WERE! IN WHAT SUIT?
ER, ER:
MY BLUE SERGE SUIT!
LAZY LEE
AS TIME GOES BY
HEY LAZY LEE! I'VE FOUND A GREAT JOB FOR YOU!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A GREAT JOB
WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT THIS JOB IS - EVEN YOU WILL LIKE IT...
YEAH? WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A LEAF TEARING JOB - ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TEAR THE LEAVES OFF A CALENDAR ONCE A MONTH!
ONCE A MONTH! WORK FOR ME! THAT'S TOO MUCH! SEE IF YOU CAN GET ME A JOB..
..WHERE THEY HAVE ALL THE MONTHS OF THE YEAR ON ONE LEAF!

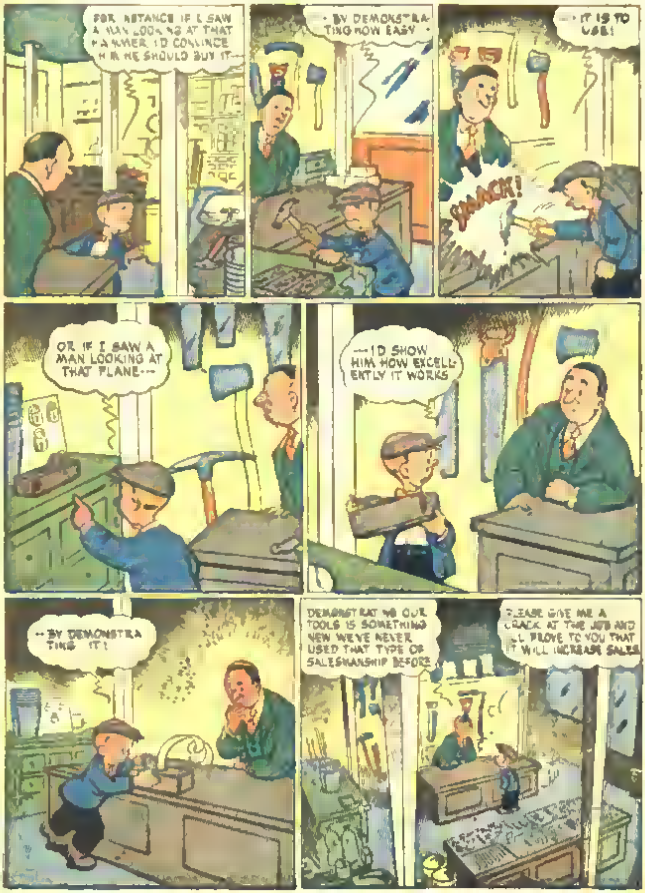
PEEWEE PETE
THE GREAT DEMONSTRATION

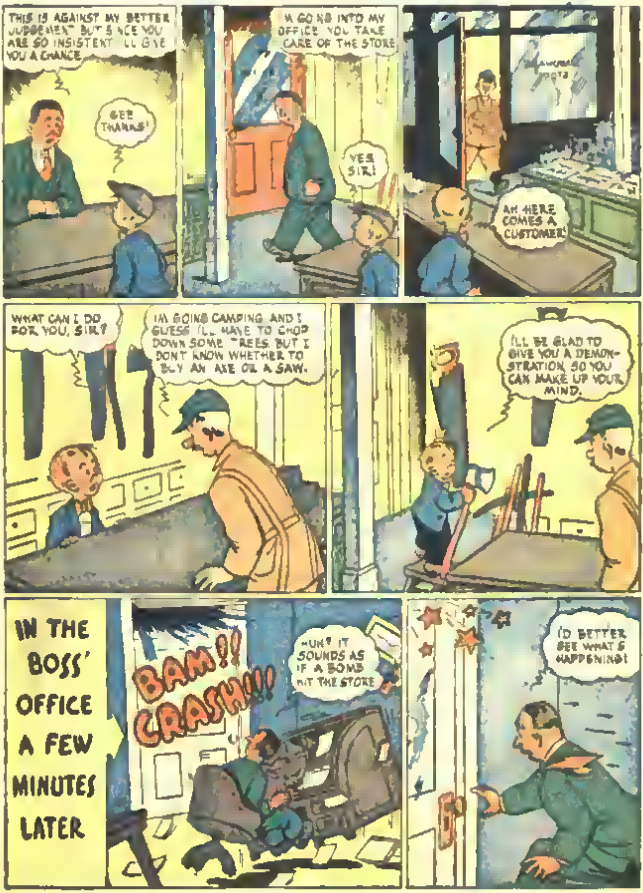
I'M TIRED OF BEING AN OFFICE BOY. I THINK I'LL LOOK FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF JOB.

GEE, THEY NEED A SALESMAN! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD JOB! I'M GOING IN AND SEE IF I CAN GET IT!
HARDWARE STORE
SALESMAN WANTED


WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I SAW YOUR SIGN IN THE WINDOW AND I'D LIKE THE JOB AS SALESMAN.


BUT YOU'RE ONLY A LITTLE BOY. THIS JOB CALLS FOR A GROWN-UP.
I MAY BE SMALL BUT I HAVE BIG IDEAS ABOUT SELLING!


FOR INSTANCE IF I SAW A MAN LOOKING AT THAT HAMMER I'D CONVINCE HIM HE SHOULD BUY IT---
- BY DEMONSTRATING HOW EASY
--IT IS TO USE!
CRACK!
OR IF I SAW A MAN LOOKING AT THAT PLANE---
---I'D SHOW HIM HOW EXCELLENTLY IT WORKS
--BY DEMONSTRATING IT!
DEMONSTRATING OUR TOOLS IS SOMETHING WE'VE NEVER USED THAT TYPE OF SALESMANSHIP BEFORE
PLEASE GIVE ME A CRACK AT THE JOB AND I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT IT WILL INCREASE SALES


THIS IS AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT BUT SINCE YOU ARE SO INSISTENT I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE.
GEE THANKS!
I'M GOING INTO MY OFFICE. YOU TAKE CARE OF THE STORE.
YES SIR!
AH HERE COMES A CUSTOMER!
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SIR?
I'M GOING CAMPING AND I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO CHOP DOWN SOME TREES BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO BUY AN AXE OR A SAW.
I'LL BE GLAD TO GIVE YOU A DEMONSTRATION, SO YOU CAN MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
IN THE BOSS' OFFICE A FEW MINUTES LATER
BAM!! CRASH!!!
HUH? IT SOUNDS AS IF A BOMB HIT THE STORE
I'D BETTER SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!

MY STORE! IT'S RUINED.
YOU IDIOT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THIS CUSTOMER CAN'T MAKE UP HIS MIND WHICH HE WANTS--- AN AXE OR A SAW I'M HELPING HIM DECIDE BY DEMONSTRATING HOW EACH WORKS!
WELL, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND THAT YOU'RE FIRED!
NOW I'M GOING TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THE TIP OF MY FOOT WORKS!
AND IF YOU EVER SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE AGAIN I'LL WAVE YOU LOCKED UP!
WHAM!
COME TO THINK OF IT-- BEING AN OFFICE BOY ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL!

I'LL KILL YOU FOR THIS!

By Clement Good

NO doubt you remember the time the plane crashed into the Shi-Hi Building. Thirty-two people were killed including all four crew members of the plane, 27 office workers in the building and one unlucky pedestrian 63 stories below who got smashed by a falling engine.

But no matter how well you remember it, I remember it better. I was working in the Shi-Hi that morning when that fatal flying monster reared or and crashed, with a glow of reddish yellow light that was like the end of the world. Of course, it was the end of the world for 32 people. There was one incident that never got into the papers. I suppose that in such a catastrophe there are too many angles for even the most industrious reporters to get everything.

I was working on the 61st floor in the offices of Clethro & Company. I was the third of three mail boys. In order of seniority, the other two were Sorenson and Roswald. Sorenson had worked there about three years and was in line to become a Junior Clerk, assistant to Mr Clethro, himself. It was a glorified title for personal office boy to Mr Clethro, and yet the job was more important than being just office boy. It put a fellow in constant contact with the big boss. It gave him a good chance to learn the business. Every boy who'd ever held the job was soon promoted to a high-paying and important position with the company. Sorenson was looking forward to his promotion. He was about 20 years old, I guess, and wanted to get married. The sooner he got the good job and good money, the sooner this would be possible. He was serious, a nice guy and a hard worker. He had helped me a lot when I first came to work. I was pulling for him.

Roswald, on the other hand, was a fellow to whom I took an instinctive dislike. I couldn't tell exactly why I disliked him. He was smiling, affable, a good talker, a good story-teller, a back-slapper. But even when he was smiling and appearing friendly there was a greedy look in the back of his eyes. One thing that particularly annoyed me was the way he would ridicule Sorenson behind his back. He kept trying to draw me out to say something against Sorenson, too. I figured Roswald would stab you for a nickel.

The morning of the plane crash started out in the ordinary way. Everybody coming to work was commenting on how foggy it was and as we were sorting the morning mail, we could see heavy wisps of the grey stuff floating up around the building. One of the nice things, usually, about working in the Shi-Hi was the terrific view. But not this morning. We might as well have been working in a bowl of pea soup.

About 9:30 Mr. Clethro came into the mail room and he was in a good mood. "Boys," he said, addressing Roswald and me "you're going to have to get yourselves a new assistant. I'm taking Sorenson with me first of the month."

This was the promotion. We shook hands with Sorenson and congratulated him. Reserved as he was, you could see he was ready to dance a jig, he was so delighted.

I was busy delivering mail on the other side of the building so I didn't see what happened next but I get it straight and it's the truth. Roswald was alone in Mr Clethro's private office and the door was open. Sorenson was just outside the door. Roswald bellered, rather excited, "Hey Sorenson! Come and take a look at this!"

SORENSON naturally came in and took the paper Roswald handed him and began to read. Roswald tiptoed out very fast. He must have timed it perfectly, because he got out one door just before Mr Clethro came in the other. And Mr Clethro caught Sorenson reading a letter that was personal. The envelope, clearly marked "PERSONAL AND PRIVATE" lay torn open on Mr Clethro's desk.

I don't know whether it would've done any good for Sorenson to claim that Roswald had framed him. But he wasn't the kind who would do it, anyway. It would've seemed like being a tattle tale. Mr. Clethro said he was disappointed in Sorenson and there was no place in the firm for snoopers.

When Sorenson came back to the mail room, Roswald tried to act very innocent at first, as if the whole thing had been accidental. Sorenson was walking toward him very slowly. He didn't believe it was an accident. When Roswald realized this, he changed to a dirty, sneering laugh, called Sorenson a sucker to fall for such a simple trick, said he wasn't bright enough to deserve the new job anyway. Sorenson just kept walking without saying anything.

When he was within a foot of Roswald, his right fist shot out. It caught Roswald on the chin and rocked his head back.

I knew Roswald was completely surprised. I was too Sorenson was not the fighter type. He was so calm, so serious all the time. But that punch was as authentic as any ever thrown by Joe Louis.

ROSWALD, dazed and staggering, had backed up against a table, gripping it with his hands. Beads of perspiration stood out on his forehead and his eyes were haunted with fear

"Don't!" he cried. "It was just a gag. I'll explain everything to the Old Man. Don't hit me again!"

"I'll kill you for this!" said Sorenson, moving forward again, deliberately, slowly, his fist cocked.

Roswald swung around the table and shoved it over toward Sorenson. Then he ran into the paper storage room and slammed the door behind him. I made a tentative effort to stop Sorenson from following, but he brushed me back as if I'd been a fly. I was sure he would kill Roswald.

I didn't notice the rear of the plane at the time. Only remembered it afterward There was the incredibly loud crash, the blinding red-and yellow light, and the building shaking like an earthquake.

The next few seconds are, of course, rather fuzzy in my mind My feet must have been knocked from under me. I was sprawled on the floor I saw Sorenson getting up. He didn't say, "What was that!" or make any comment on the blast He just started heading for the door of the paper storage room with his fists cocked.

When he opened the door, a great puff of smoke came billowing out. He was blinded and nearly choked. He was forced to retreat. It was only then that he seemed to notice that anything had happened. "Fire!" he said in a low voice. Sorenson knew that to shout fire in a loud voice would cause panic.

I don't know whether the screaming had been going on for a long while or whether it was just then that we noticed it The whole building seemed suddenly to be a bedlam. We could hear running feet in the other offices. We could hear the crackling of flames. I mention these various noises individually because that's the only way you can put them on paper, but actually they were all mixed together in one giant noise

I found myself in the big main office Mr Clethro was standing on a desk, calling for attention. His voice was calm and authoritative. "Take it easy!" he ordered. "This building's fire proof Stay where you are and you won't be hurt." It was amazing the way this quieted the stenographers who had been yelling and screaming and running around like crazy Some of the girls who had been heading for the elevators came back. A couple of the men became bold enough to try to look out the windows

Mr. Clethro ordered them back and just in time One had barely pulled in his head when a chunk of burning plane dropped down past the window The man looked at the window for a second, then fainted dead away The other came running back and shouted excitedly, 'There's somebody out there On the ledge A man!"

Mr Clethro looked "It's Roswald!" he said.

Freakishly, the crash had blown Roswald out of the paper storage room onto a narrow ledge He was lying on a great pile of papers that had been blown out with him There was a red gash across his cheek and his shirt was bloody From above gasoline was dripping onto him and the papers and it would be only a matter of seconds before a falling spark would make a funeral pyre of the whole thing

Sorenson raised a window and put his foot on the sill "I'm going to get him."

"Come back! I forbid it,' ordered Mr. Clethro. "He's doomed. May be dead now. And you'll just get yourself killed, too '

"You can't give me orders," said Sorenson "You fired me remember? And he crawled through the window

I don't know how he did it. He had to swing from the window to the ledge The sills and the sides of the building were slippery with gasoline and oil Pieces of plane and masonry were raining And it was a dizzying 61-floor drop to the street below. But he got to Roswald and hauled him off that oil soaked pile of papers a bare second before a falling flame turned the whole stack into a roaring inferno

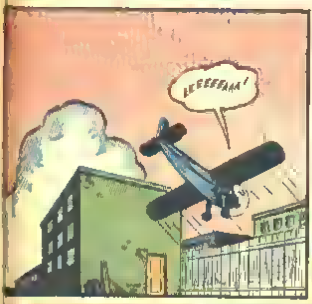
SORENSON is now an executive vice-president of Clethro and company. The rumor is that Mr Clethro is planning to make him a full partner. And Sorenson is married and has a very cute little baby who is all the cuter because he's so solemn and serious looking

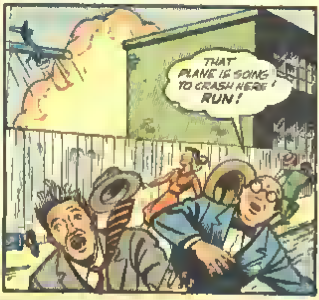
It would round out the story very nicely to say that Roswald was so grateful for having his life saved that he confessed how he framed Sorenson. But it didn't happen that way. When he was hauled in the window, he was delirious for awhile and he boasted about how he had put over that personal letter trick on the "sucker" Mr. Clethro, who was applying a tourniquet to him, heard it all.

THE END

Captain MARVEL and THE MISTAKE OF FATHER TIME

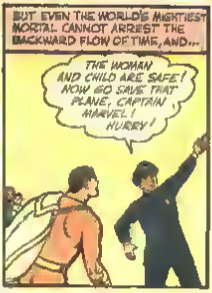
BUT MAYBE I COULD HAVE SAVED THEM BOTH! IF ONLY I COULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN!
HOW OFTEN HAVE PEOPLE.. EVEN YOU AND I.. SAID THOSE SAME SAD WORDS?
BUT TIME IS SOMETHING NO MAN CAN CONTROL! AND SOMETIMES EVEN OLD FATHER TIME HIMSELF HAS A TOUGH TIME DOING IT.. AS WE ARE ABOUT TO SEE!
HO HUM! GUESS I'LL SIT DOWN ON THIS NICE SOFT CLOUD FOR AWHILE!
BUT WATCH WHAT HAPPENS AS FATHER TIME ABSENT-MINDEDLY TURNS UPSIDE DOWN HIS HOUR GLASS WHICH CONTROLS THE FLOW OF ALL TIME!
NOW AS THE SANDS OF TIME RUN BACKWARD, THE EVENTS OF THE PRECEDING MOMENTS OCCUR AGAIN IN REVERSE!
DEAD, POOR FELLOW! IF ONLY I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM!
TOO LATE!
CRASH!
CLANG!
RIP!
CRACK!

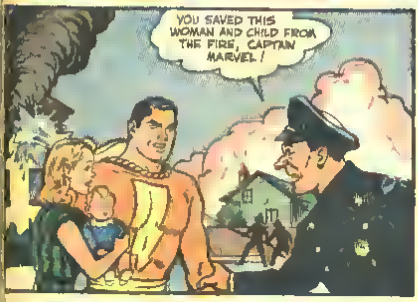

KEEEFFAA!


THAT PLANE IS GOING TO CRASH HERE! RUN!

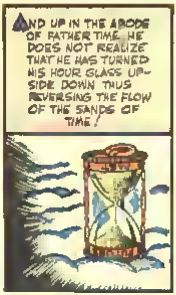
GOT TO SAVE THAT PLANE!

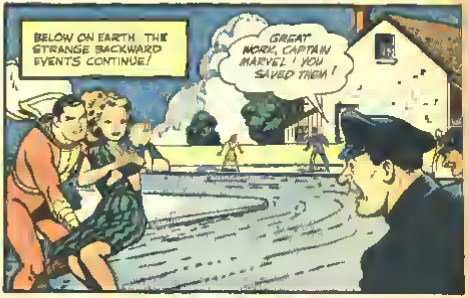
CAPTAIN MARVEL SUDDENLY SENSES THAT SOMETHING WEIRD IS HAPPENING!
HEY! WHAT GOES ON? I'M FLYING BACKWARDS! HOLY MOLEY!


BUT EVEN THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL CANNOT ARREST THE BACKWARD FLOW OF TIME, AND...
THE WOMAN AND CHILD ARE SAFE! NOW GO SAVE THAT PLANE, CAPTAIN MARVEL! HURRY!


YOU SAVED THIS WOMAN AND CHILD FROM THE FIRE, CAPTAIN MARVEL!

HOLY MOLEY! NOW I GET IT! I JUST RE-LIVED THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW MOMENTS IN REVERSE! TIME IS GOING BACKWARDS!
ONLY THE KEEN BRAIN OF CAPTAIN MARVEL REALIZES WHAT HAS HAPPENED!


AND UP IN THE ABODE OF FATHER TIME, HE DOES NOT REALIZE THAT HE HAS TURNED HIS HOUR GLASS UP-SIDE DOWN THUS REVERSING THE FLOW OF THE SANDS OF TIME!

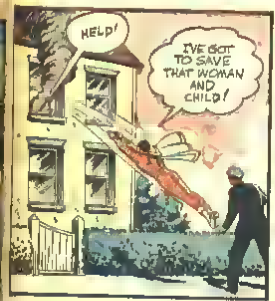

BELOW ON EARTH THE STRANGE BACKWARD EVENTS CONTINUE!
GREAT WORK, CAPTAIN MARVEL! YOU SAVED THEM!

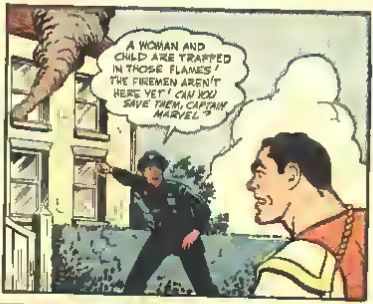
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW, MA'AM! YOU'RE SAFE!

I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME!

JUST RELAX, NOW! I'LL SAVE YOU!

HELP!

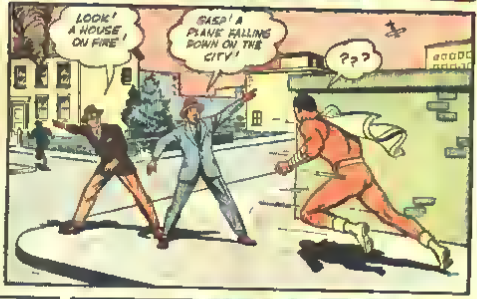


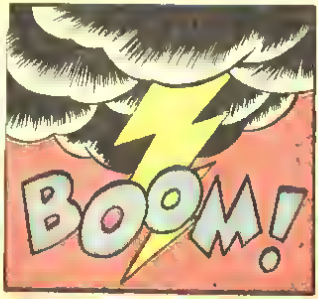


TIME CONTINUES TO REVERSE ITSELF! TWO TRAGIC EVENTS WHICH HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE HAVE UNWOUND BACKWARDS!

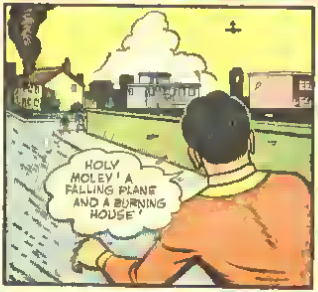
AND NOW THE POINT IS REACHED WHERE THE TWO EVENTS **HAVE NOT YET HAPPENED!**

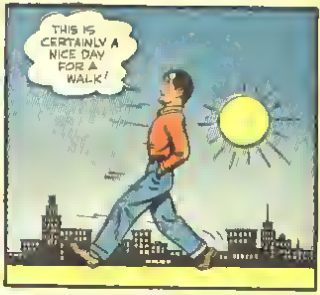
THIS BRINGS CAPTAIN MARVEL TO A VERY CRUCIAL MOMENT!



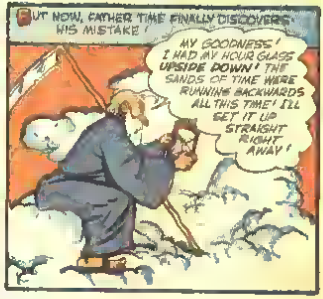

BOOM!

SHAZAM!

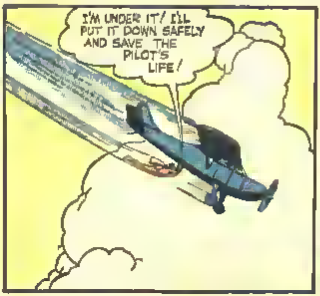

HOLY MOLEY! A FALLING PLANE AND A BURNING HOUSE!

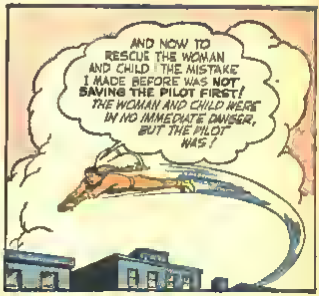

THIS IS CERTAINLY A NICE DAY FOR A WALK!

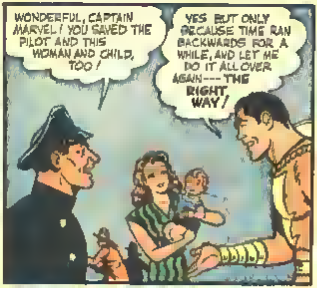
MY WORKS ALL DONE! I GUESS I'LL TAKE A LITTLE STROLL!
WHIZ


BUT NOW, FATHER TIME FINALLY DISCOVERS HIS MISTAKE!
MY GOODNESS! I HAD MY HOUR GLASS UPSIDE DOWN! THE SANDS OF TIME WERE RUNNING BACKWARDS ALL THIS TIME! I'LL SET IT UP STRAIGHT RIGHT AWAY!

AND THIS NOW STARTS BACK ON ITS CUSTOMARY PATH!
MY WORK'S ALL DONE! I GUESS I'LL TAKE A LITTLE STROLL!
AND SO, AS TIME ONCE AGAIN MOVES FORWARD, BILLY BATSON COMES TO THE MOMENT WHEN HE FIRST SAW THE TWO "TRAGIC EVENTS!"
HOLY MOLEY! A FALLING PLANE AND A BURNING HOUSE!
SHAZAM!
THE ANCIENT NAME BRINGS MAGIC LIGHTNING AND CHANGES BILLY TO HIS OTHER FORM OF CAPTAIN MARVEL
BOOM!
AND THE CAPTAIN MARVEL'S KEEN BRAIN IS ABLE TO DISCERN THAT TIME IS AGAIN GOING OVER THE SAME EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE BEFORE!
THIS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE! FIRST, I RUSH TO THE BURNING HOME AND RESCUE THE WOMAN AND CHILD
WAIT! HOLY MOLEY! AFTER I SAW THE PLANE CRASH, I SAID--- "IF ONLY I COULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN!" THIS IS MY GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR MY WISH HAS COME TRUE!
SO INSTEAD OF RESCUING THE WOMAN AND CHILD FIRST, I'LL STOP THAT FALLING PLANE!







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